



DIVISIONS
ENERGY
GAS AND OIL
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
MINED LAND RECLAMATION
MINERAL MINING
MINES
ADMINISTRATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

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MEDIA ADVISORY

April 21, 2010

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Interstate Arbor Day: *Forests Without Borders*

What: Interstate Arbor Day Celebration, wherein over 100 elementary students from Kentucky and Virginia will plant seedlings on mined land to start a forest on both sides of the Virginia-Kentucky state line. A true forest without borders.

When: Friday, April 30, 2010, 10 AM.

Where: Cumberland River Coal Company mine sites along the Virginia-Kentucky state line, Wise County, Virginia and Letcher County, Kentucky (directions attached)

Event: Cumberland River Coal Company, the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME), the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources (DNR), the federal Office and Surface Mining, and the Virginia Department of Forestry promoting reforestation of mined lands by celebrating an Interstate Arbor Day.

Host: Cumberland River Coal Company on its coal surface mining operations along the Virginia-Kentucky state line

Participants: Over 100 excited elementary students and teachers from Arlie Boggs Elementary School in Letcher County, Kentucky and Appalachia Elementary in Wise County, Virginia. This will be the first truly Interstate Arbor Day celebration to promote reforestation of mined lands.

Activities: Students and teachers will be involved in planting over 1000 native hardwood seedlings on the surface mine. Tree species will include blight resistant American chestnut, red oak, black walnut, yellow poplar, green ash, and red maple. Students will also be involved with educational "mini-sessions" on establishing forested wetlands on mined land. DMME and DNR will present reforestation awards to companies accomplishing outstanding reforestation on active mine sites and abandoned coal mines. The Virginia Mining Association will announce the winner of an art contest on a theme of "Forests Without Borders".

- M O R E -

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

TDD (800) 828-1120 --- Virginia Relay Center

Lunch: Cumberland River Coal Company will provide lunch for all participants.

Promotional items: Cumberland River Coal Company will provide promotional items including custom t-shirts. The t-shirt has a graphic theme designed by a student from one of the participating elementary schools. The Virginia Mining Association and Dominion will provide book bags for all students.

Dignitaries: Dignitaries confirmed to attend include Tom Shope, Regional Director of the United States Department of the Interior; Carl Campbell, Commissioner, Kentucky Department for Natural Resources; Butch Lambert, Deputy Director, Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy; Joe Blackburn, Office of Surface Mining; and Earl Bandy, Office of Surface Mining.

Questions: Mike Abbott, VA DMME, 276-523-8146 Mike.Abbott@dmme.virginia.gov
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Interstate Arbor Day Directions

- From points west and south (Big Stone Gap, Virginia area): proceed to Business 23 through Big Stone to Appalachia; continue on Business 23 through Appalachia on to Kent Junction; turn left onto Rt. 603 and continue approximately 8 miles on 603 to the entrance to Cumberland River Coal Company; agency or company personnel will direct visitors to the Interstate Arbor Day site
- From points east (Wise, Russell and Washington Counties, Virginia): proceed on Alternate 58 (58A) and travel west to Norton; take Business 23 through downtown Norton; continue on Business 23 for approximately 7 miles to Kent Junction; turn right onto Rt. 603 and continue approximately 8 miles on 603 to the entrance to Cumberland River Coal Company; agency or company personnel will direct visitors to the Interstate Arbor Day
- From Kentucky points west (Corbin): proceed on 25E through Barbourville and Middlesboro; drive through the tunnel and take the exit for Route 58 to Jonesville; in Jonesville, keep straight through all lights, leading on Rt 58A and Big Stone Gap; note first bullet for Big Stone Gap directions
- From Kentucky points north and west (Pikeville, Hazard) from Hazard, take Rt. 15 through Whitesburg and onto Rt. 23 south; from Pikeville, continue on Rt. 23 south; Rt. 23 south continues to Norton; take first Norton exit and follow directions in second bullet above
- Cumberland River Coal Company and agency personnel will assist in transporting participants from the company office to the event site if participant's vehicles are not suitable for travel on mine access roads

For day of the event directions, please call Richard Davis at 276-298-4821, or Cathy Sexton at 276-523-8199.